

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

ELECTRONIC COMMERCE CRIME
PREVENTION AND PROTECTION
ACT

HON. JOSEPH CROWLEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 5, 1999

Mr. CROWLEY. Mr. Speaker, did you know that anyone with access to a computer and a modem could buy or sell firearms and explosives over the Internet with little or no federal regulation? And, did you know that, as a result of this loophole, children and career criminals are illegally purchasing firearms and explosives right now? Unfortunately, obtaining the instruments of violence over the Internet is as easy as "point, click, ship."

For far too long, gunfire in our homes, our communities, and in our schools has continued to steal young lives and destroy families. As scenes like Columbine High School and the North Valley Jewish Community Center killing spree continue to haunt America, we must step-up our efforts to protect children from gun violence.

One important step in the process of protecting our children from gun violence is closing the dangerous loophole that allows guns to be purchased from unlicensed dealers over the Internet. To accomplish this, I am introducing the "Electronic Commerce Crime Prevention and Protection Act." This much-needed legislation would ban all sales of firearms, ammunition and explosives over the Internet.

I would like to thank Congressman BRAD SHERMAN, Congressman ROBERT BRADY, Congressman JAMES MORAN, Congressman JOHN LARSON, Congressman MARTIN MEEHAN, Congressman RICHARD NEAL, Congressman ROBERT MENENDEZ, Congressman NANCY PELOSI, and Congressman JOSEPH HOEFFEL for joining me as original cosponsors of this important legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to co-sponsor my legislation to ensure that the Internet remains a wonderful mechanism for commerce, communication and learning, and not a means for obtaining the tools of violence.

INDIAN HUMAN RIGHTS ACTIVISTS
ISSUE NEW REPORT ON EN-
FORCED DISAPPEARANCES, AR-
BITRARY EXECUTIONS, AND SE-
CRET CREMATIONS IN INDIA

HON. DAN BURTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 5, 1999

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, the Committee for Coordination on Disappearances in Punjab recently issued a new report on enforced disappearances, arbitrary execu-

tions, and secret cremations of Sikhs in Punjab. It documents the names and addresses of 838 victims of this tyrannical policy. The report is both shocking and distressing.

The Committee is an umbrella organization of 18 human rights organizations under the leadership of Hindu human rights activist Ram Narayan Kumar. The report discusses "illegal abductions and secret cremations of dead bodies." In fact, the Indian Supreme Court has itself described this policy as "worse than a genocide."

The report includes direct testimony from members of the victims' families, other witnesses, and details of these brutal cases. The human rights community has stated that over 50,000 Sikhs have "disappeared" at the hands of the Indian government in the early nineties. How can any country, especially one that claims to be the "world's largest democracy," get away with so many killings, abductions and other atrocities? Will the Indian government prosecute the officials of its security forces who are responsible for these acts? Will the Indian government compensate the victims and their families?

If America can compensate the Japanese victims of the internment camps during World War II, why can't India compensate the families whose husbands, sons, wives, or daughters have been murdered? Murder is a lot more serious than internment, and these acts are much more recent.

The Council of Khalistan recently issued a press release on the Committee's report. I am placing that release in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD for the information of my colleagues.

NEW REPORT EXPOSES ENFORCED DISAPPEAR-
ANCES, ARBITRARY EXECUTIONS, SECRET
CREMATIONS OF SIKHS BY INDIAN GOVERN-
MENT IDENTIFIES VICTIMS OF GENOCIDE BY
NAME

WASHINGTON, D.C., September 15, 1999—The Committee for Coordination on Disappearances in Punjab, led by Hindu human-rights activist Ram Narayan Kumar, has issued an interim report entitled "Enforced Disappearances, Arbitrary Executions, and Secret Cremations" which exposes secret mass cremations of Sikhs by the Indian government.

The report contains a 21-page list of 838 victims who were identified by name and address. This is a very preliminary report. Three of India's most respected human rights group issued a joint letter in 1997 stating that between 1992 and 1994, 50,000 Sikhs were made to disappear by Indian forces. They were arrested, tortured, and murdered by police, then their bodies were declared "unidentified" and cremated. The Indian Supreme Court described the situation as "worse than a genocide."

More than 250,000 Sikhs have been killed since 1984. Over 200,000 Christians have been killed since 1947 and over 65,000 Kashmiri Muslims have been killed since 1988. Thousands more languish in prisons without charge or trial, according to Amnesty International. Last month, 29 Members of the U.S. Congress wrote to the Prime Minister of

India demanding the release of these political prisoners.

The report makes reference to the police kidnapping and murder of human-rights activist Jaswant Singh Khalsa in 1995. Khalsa "released some official documents which established that the security agencies in Punjab had been secretly cremating thousands of dead bodies labelled as unidentified," the report noted. "Khalsa suggested the most of these cremations were of people who had earlier been picked up in the state on suspicion of separatist sympathies," according to the report.

"In September 1995, it was Khalsa's turn to disappear; he was kidnapped from his Armistar home by officers of the Punjab police." In October 1995, the police murdered Mr. Khalsa. Despite an order of the Supreme Court, none of the police officers involved has been brought to justice. The report also cited an official inquiry's findings of "flagrant violation of human rights on a mass scale."

"This report shows that for Sikhs there are no human rights in India," said Dr. Gurmit Singh Aulakh, President of the Council of Khalistan. "The genocide by the Indian Government shows Sikhs that there is no religious tolerance in India and India will never allow Sikhs or other religious minorities to exercise their religious or political rights," he said.

"If India is the democracy it claims to be, then why not simply hold a plebiscite on independence in Punjab, Khalistan? Dr. Aulakh asked. "Instead of doing the democratic thing and allowing the people of Punjab, Khalistan, of Kashmir, of Christian Nagaland to vote on their political status, as America has repeatedly allowed Puerto Rico to do and Canada has allowed Quebec to do, the Indians try to crush the freedom movements by killing massive numbers of people in these minority nations," he said. "Democracies don't commit genocide."

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 1906,
AGRICULTURE, RURAL DEVELOP-
MENT, FOOD AND DRUG ADMIN-
ISTRATION, AND RELATED
AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS
ACT, 2000

SPEECH OF

HON. JOE SKEEN

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 1, 1999

Mr. SKEEN. Mr. Speaker, as Chairman of the Appropriations Subcommittee on Agriculture I fully expect the Secretary, in conjunction with the International Arid Lands Consortium, to expand efforts in the area of arid lands research, specifically in the areas of water, grazing and drought mitigation programs applicable to arid and semi-arid regions. Not only will an expansion of these efforts prove valuable to America's farmers and

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

ranchers, the employment of the existing scientific/political relationship between the Department, the International Arid Lands Consortium, Israel and Jordan could prove highly beneficial to the Middle East peace process as well.

U.N. SECRETARY GENERAL KOFI ANNAN DISCUSSES THE INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS COMMUNITY'S SELF INTEREST IN HUMAN RIGHTS AND GLOBAL VALUES

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 5, 1999

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, standing at the dawn of the new millennium, we have an incredible opportunity to create a more peaceful, more humane, and more orderly world. We are entering a new era in which previously ignored social issues must be addressed. In today's increasingly globalized world, we have seen remarkable advances in trade and technology. The time has come, however, when the new global economy must embrace social responsibility.

Mr. Speaker, the Secretary General of the United Nations, my dear friend Kofi Annan, addressed a number of these issues in an important message last month. He discussed the fundamental partnership between business and human rights and the importance of having international values and principles to guide our global economy. The United Nations is an extremely important element of our nation's foreign policy and it plays a fundamental role in enhancing respect for the rights of women and men around the globe as well as enhancing the value of human life.

The Secretary General addressed these issues in a message to the Workshop "Today and Tomorrow: Outlook for Corporate Strategies" which was organized by the Ambrosetti firm and was held this September in Cernobbio, Italy, under the leadership of my friend Alfredo Ambrosetti.

Mr. Speaker, the message of the Secretary General to the conference is most appropriate to consider as we face the new millennium. I offer the message of Secretary General Kofi Annan to be placed in the RECORD, and I urge my colleagues to give it serious and thoughtful attention.

[Message of Secretary General Kofi Annan to the Workshop]

TODAY AND TOMORROW: OUTLOOK FOR CORPORATE STRATEGIES

It gives me great pleasure to convey my greetings to all who have gathered for the Villa d'Este workshop, which this year celebrates its 25th anniversary. Congratulations on this milestone.

You have gathered to examine a global predicament that is deeply ambivalent. Peace spreads in one region while violence rages in another. Unprecedented wealth coexists with terrible deprivation, as a quarter of the world's people remain mired in poverty. Through it all we can see the contours of a new global fabric taking shape. The globalization of markets, technology, fi-

nance and information is defining new realities, re-shaping our notions of sovereignty and challenging us to reconsider many of the assumptions that have guided policy-making until now.

As you know globalization is under intense pressure. And the multilateral trading system is in the line of fire. The problem is not with trade or transnational companies or market per se; the trading system is one of the great success stories of the past half century. Rather the problem seems to be that while so much has been done to make the trading system the success it is, other urgent issues—such as safeguarding the environment, protecting human rights and ensuring labour standards—have failed to attract similar attention.

The result is a serious imbalance on the international agenda. We have a global trading system with potentially strong governance and a strong institution—the World Trade Organization. Strong, if universal and if the most powerful countries comply with the rules. Strong, also, if we avoid saddling the trade regime with a load it cannot bear conditionalities—and instead build bridges between trade and environment, between trade and labour, between trade and human rights. We need to strengthen the pillars of global governance in these areas. After all, a bridge cannot rest on only one pillar.

It was with this in mind that I proposed, earlier this year at the World Economic Forum in Davos, a "Global Compact" between the United Nations and the world business community. The Compact asks the international business community to advocate for a stronger United Nations. It asks individual businesses to protect human rights within their sphere of influence, support the abolition of child labour, adopt a precautionary approach to environmental challenges and take other such steps which, of course, also make good business sense. The Compact offers a practical way forward to reconciling one of the key questions in the debate on globalization: how to sustain open markets while meeting the socio-economic needs of societies. It envisages business doing what it does best—creating jobs and wealth—while rooting the global market in universal values and giving the global market more of a human face.

It may not seem fair that business should be called upon to undertake such initiatives, but in today's globalizing world, economic power and social responsibility cannot be separated. This issue—and in particular the risk of protectionism and other unwelcome interventions—will not go away unless business is committed, and seen to be committed, to global corporate citizenship. Just as national markets reflect the values, laws and rules of a given society, so must the new global economy be guided by an international consensus on values and principles.

I have been speaking of "business" as if it were some monolithic presence in the world economy. In the end we are talking to individual businessmen and businesswomen with the power to influence the world for the better. Let us remember that the global markets and the multilateral trading system we have today did not come about by accident. They are the result of enlightened policy choices. If we want to maintain them in the new century, all of us—governments, corporations, nongovernmental organizations, international organizations—have to make the right choices now. We have an opportunity to usher in an age of global prosperity comparable to that enjoyed by the industrialized countries in the decades after the Sec-

ond World War. We will tip the scales to the positive only if we work together and, in particular, only if the leaders amongst us step forward and do their part. In that hopeful spirit, please accept my best wishes for a successful workshop.

CONCERNING PARTICIPATION OF TAIWAN IN THE WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION (WHO)

SPEECH OF

HON. JOSEPH M. HOFFEL

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 4, 1999

Mr. HOFFEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to speak in favor of Taiwan's participation in the World Health Organization. While I have strong feelings on the issue of Taiwan's status in the world, I know there are some who disagree with me. On the issue of the health of the Taiwanese people, I don't think there can be any disagreement. Taiwan should have full participation in the World Health Organization.

As this legislation states: "Good health is a basic right for every citizen of the world and access to the highest standards of health information and services is necessary to help guarantee this right." Health risks do not recognize political boundaries. Unfortunately, politics has kept Taiwan from participating in WHO activities and other international organizations and the effects of this policy have had serious repercussions.

The World Health Organization was unable to help Taiwan with a viral outbreak which killed scores of Taiwanese children and infected more than 1,000 Taiwanese children in 1998.

More recently, Taiwan was struck by an earthquake which did substantial damage to the island. The latest estimates are that just over 2,000 people have been killed and about 100,000 are homeless. In the wake of this disaster, I was shocked to read news reports about the United Nations' response. According to one report, instead of immediately harnessing its resources and heading to Taiwan to help with the relief effort, the United Nations instead sought approval from China before sending United Nations relief workers to the scene of the disaster. If this is true, lives were again needlessly put at risk.

Ensuring the health of the people of Taiwan is a commendable goal and it is time that we put their health above politics. I commend the sponsor of the legislation, Mr. BROWN, and I urge my colleagues to support the bill.

IN CELEBRATION OF THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BLACK COWBOYS PARADE IN OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 5, 1999

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in celebration of the 25th Anniversary of the Black Cowboys